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REMARKS

The Claims have been amended to conform to United States practice and to remove multiple dependencies; no new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Consequently, Claims 1-16 are to be examined. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments prior to examination.

Please charge any deficiencies of fees to Deposit Account No. 23-0280.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5 JAHUARY 2005

By:

Roger H. Stein, Reg. PTO Reg. No. 31,882

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Kathleen Rundquist